

H. M. DAVIES.

M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H..

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

ASHBURTON U.D.C.

DAWLISH U.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.

NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

TELEPHONE NO. 715/6

COUNCIL OFFICES.

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD.

NEWTON ABBOT.

ASHBURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.- ANNUAL REPORT - 1951

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The Vital Statistics show in some cases considerable variation from the figures obtained in the County of Devon and in England and Wales. These variations are inevitable in comparing comparatively small figures involved in the Urban District with those obtained for the County and Country as a whole. I am convinced that these deviations are not of significance and that we would be unwise to assume that the figures indicate any superiority or inferiority when compared with similar towns in the County or Country.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (in acres)	6,701
Population - Mid 1951	2,685.
Population 1951 Census	2,704
Number of inhabited houses (as at 1st. April, 1951) approx.	1,008.
Rateable value on 1st. April, 1951	£.15,119
Rateable value on 31st. December, 1951	£.15,399
Product of penny rate (as at 1st. April, 1951) £.	59

VITAL STATISTICS.

In the statistics which follow it will be noted that the Birth and Death rates are calculated as 'Crude' and also as 'Corrected'.

The 'Crude' rate represents the actual figures obtained by arithmetical proportion.

The 'Corrected' or 'Standardised' rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the various age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Ashburton as compared with the rest of the Country and gives a truer comparison between the state of affairs in this Urban District and that in the larger units,

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	29	15	44
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	-----	-----	-----
	30	17	47
	-----	-----	-----
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population .			- 17.5
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population...			- 19.08.
Crude Live Birth rate for the Administrative County of Devon			- 13.46
Corrected Live Birth rate for the Administrative County of Devon.....			- 14.81
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			- 15.5

Still Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population	-	1.1
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births	-	60.
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births (England and Wales).	-	22.9.

DEATHS.

During the year the average age at death from all causes was found to be 73.1 years.

Male.	Female.	Total.
21	21	42
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population	-	15.64
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population	-	12.36
Crude Death rate for the Administrative County of Devon	-	15.45
Corrected Death rate for the Administrative County of Devon	-	11.74
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	-	12.5.

Infant Mortality.

(Death of Infants under One year of age)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	--	--	--
Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year of age) per 1000 related live births	-	-	42.55
Infant Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon ...	-	-	27.91
Infant Mortality rate England and Wales	-	-	29.6

Neo-Natal Mortality.

(Death of Infants under four weeks of age)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	--	1
Illegitimate	--	--	--

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under
four weeks of age) per 1000 related live births- 21.28
Neo-Natal Mortality rate for the Administrative
County of Devon - 19.43
Neo-Natal Mortality rate England and Wales - 18.8

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths have occurred during the past year.
The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County
of Devon is 0.88, six cases having occurred within the
County.

AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under 4 weeks	1	-
Infants under one year	1	1
1 -	1	-
5 -	-	-
15 -	-	-
25 -	-	2
45 -	3	2
65 -	5	1
75 and over	10	15
	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 21

Total:- 42.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male.	Female.
All causes	21	21
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm lung & bronchus	1	-
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2
C/fwd.	6	4

CAUSES OF DEATH (contd.).

	Male.	Female.
b/fwd.	6	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	1
Coronary disease, angina	3	4
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	1	-
Other circulatory disease	-	2
Influenza	-	2
Pneumonia	-	2
Bronchitis	3	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Congenital malformations	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
Suicide	1	-
	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>

Total: 42.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Measles	37	38	75
Whooping Cough	5	7	12
Acute Pneumonia	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	1	2
	<u>44</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>90.</u>

The large increase in the incidence of Measles as compared with last year is indicative of the usual behaviour of this disease. Increased incidence usually occurring in alternate years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (contd.).

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

Once again no cases of Diphtheria have been reported, I trust that the decreased incidence of this disease will in no way detract from the need for Diphtheria Immunisation in children. The need for this protection remains as essential as ever if this scourge is to be removed completely from the list of Infectious Diseases prevalent in the Country.

H. DAVIES.

Medical Officer of Health.

